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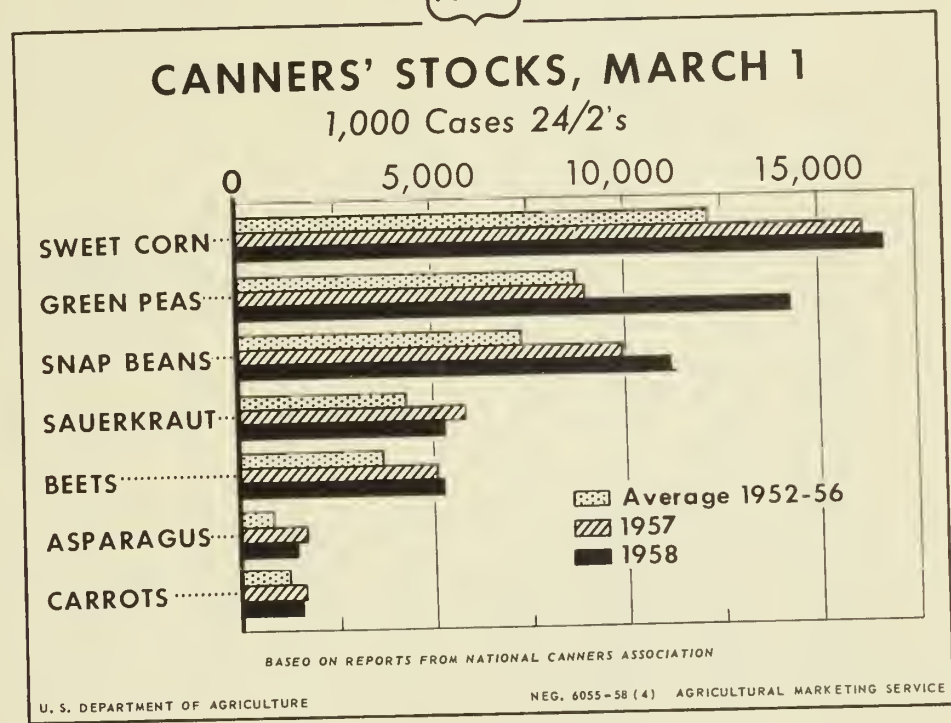
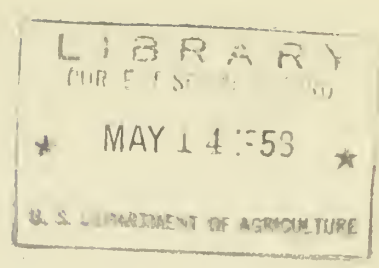


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The

# VEGETABLE SITUATION

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Net outmovement of canned vegetables since January 1 has been significantly larger than a year earlier. Nevertheless, supplies of most items are still heavy and prices relatively low. Cannery stocks of green peas on March 1 were especially burdensome. In addition to the items shown, indications are that stocks of tomatoes and tomato juice are substantially smaller than a

year earlier. Intentions reports for 9 important vegetables for commercial processing indicate that packers plan to plant or contract about 9 percent less acreage for processing. Should yields be near the average of recent years total production, on the indicated acreage, would be moderately smaller than last year.

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Table 1.--Vegetables for fresh market: Reported commercial acreage and production average 1949-56, annual 1957, and indicated 1958

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage					Production				
	Average 1949-56	1957	Indicated	1958		Average 1949-56	1957	1958		
				Percent- age of average	Percent- age of 1957			Indi- cated	Percent- age of average	Percent- age of 1957
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Pct.	Pct.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	Pct.	Pct.
Winter 1/	265,600	250,910	210,070	79	84	31,165	30,308	26,548	85	88
Spring:										
Asparagus										
early and mid 1/	83,450	90,260	92,600	111	103	2,020	2,312	2,244	111	97
late 1/	54,750	64,780	66,390	121	102	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, lima	5,260	3,800	3,400	65	89	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, snap,										
early and mid	38,600	27,100	29,350	76	108	3/589	3/413	3/420	71	102
Beets	1,020	750	700	69	93	106	74	58	55	78
Broccoli 1/ 2/	10,250	13,800	12,000	117	87	640	690	600	94	87
Cabbage										
early 1/	20,050	17,200	16,800	84	98	2,447	2,485	2,216	91	89
late 1/	9,990	9,170	8,550	86	93	---	---	---	---	---
Cantaloups	39,920	39,000	34,600	87	89	---	---	---	---	---
Carrots	2,710	2,400	1,300	48	54	569	516	280	49	54
Cauliflower 2/	7,020	7,700	7,000	100	91	1,139	962	910	80	95
Celery	6,540	7,200	7,500	115	104	3,555	3,600	3,488	98	97
Corn, sweet 2/	33,110	28,900	32,500	98	112	2,159	1,840	1,860	86	101
Cucumbers 2/	10,760	12,400	14,000	130	113	836	906	1,066	128	118
Eggplant	1,200	1,200	1,300	108	108	138	126	130	94	103
Lettuce 2/	47,020	48,150	50,500	107	105	5,703	6,701	6,438	113	96
Onions										
early	37,600	30,000	27,000	72	90	2,212	2,700	2,430	110	90
late	14,940	12,900	16,900	113	131	---	---	---	---	---
Peas, green 2/	7,290	3,400	3,700	51	109	240	126	92	38	73
Peppers, green	7,990	7,400	7,000	88	95	511	370	315	62	85
Shallots	2,350	2,000	1,700	72	85	65	40	42	65	105
Spinach	10,720	8,580	8,080	75	94	676	509	481	71	94
Tomatoes 2/	55,790	43,500	58,000	104	133	3,799	3,434	3,598	95	105
Watermelons										
late	86,360	103,200	102,700	119	100	---	---	---	---	---
Summer:										
Cabbage										
early 1/	9,010	8,340	8,190	91	98	---	---	---	---	---
late 1/	22,830	18,970	18,750	82	99	---	---	---	---	---
Garlic	2,030	2,300	2,900	143	126	---	---	---	---	---
Onions										
early	6,830	11,850	9,890	145	83	---	---	---	---	---
late	60,970	55,960	57,170	94	102	---	---	---	---	---
Watermelons										
early	288,140	303,500	335,500	116	111	---	---	---	---	---
late	23,430	26,650	27,350	117	103	---	---	---	---	---

1/ Includes processing.

2/ Acreage and production for early spring only.

3/ Production for early spring only.

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T H E V E G E T A B L E S I T U A T I O N  
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Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 24, 1958

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SUMMARY

Early estimates for 18 important vegetable crops point to a little smaller overall supply of fresh market vegetables this spring than last. Most items are expected to be in smaller supply with early spring crop cucumbers and tomatoes the only major items for which sizeable increases are indicated. However, crops in some areas have been delayed by adverse weather, so that for a number of vegetables marketings may be heavier in late spring than a year earlier. The 18 vegetables typically make up about three-fourths of total spring tonnage, excluding melons. Demand for vegetables is expected to be about the same as a year ago. Partly because of delayed harvest of some early spring crops, supplies of some items will pick up rapidly during the next few weeks and prices are expected to decline more than seasonally. Barring further adverse weather, prices in late spring may average below the relatively high levels of a year earlier.

Supplies of processed vegetables are moderately smaller than the heavy supplies of a year ago, but stocks are substantially above the 1949-56 average. Prices of most items are relatively low and are expected to remain so for the next 3 to 4 months. Processors reportedly are aiming for a moderately smaller pack than last year. March and April intentions reports for 9 major crops for processing indicate that processors plan to plant or contract 9 percent less acreage than in 1957. If yields and abandonment should be near the average of recent years, aggregate production would be moderately smaller.

Substantially fewer potatoes will be available this spring than the heavy supplies of a year earlier. Storage stocks of fall crop potatoes are materially smaller than a year ago, and spring production probably will be down. Indicated production of early spring potatoes is off 15 percent from a year earlier. Acreage of the more important late spring crop is 5 percent larger than last year. But the crop in California and several of the south-eastern States has been delayed and damaged by adverse weather, so that production may be smaller. Prices of potatoes during the next 6 to 8 weeks are expected to remain much above the low levels of a year earlier.

Growers in the 33 late summer and fall States may again produce too many potatoes, thus depressing prices. March intentions reports indicate that producers in these States plan to plant a slightly larger acreage of potatoes than last year, and 8 percent more than suggested in the Department's acreage-marketing guide.

Intentions reports indicate that growers are likely to plant substantially the same acreage of sweetpotatoes this year as last but a fifth less than the 1949-56 average. Barring very high yields, such as those of 1957, production would be at least moderately smaller than in the previous season, and prices probably higher.

Farmers report intentions to plant a moderately larger acreage of dry edible beans than last year, but a substantially smaller acreage of dry field peas. If yields by States should be near the 1952-56 average, dry beans would be in at least moderately larger supply than in the current season; supplies of peas would be substantially smaller but still adequate. If these supplies materialize, prices of dry beans in the 1958-59 season are likely to average at least moderately below those of the current season, and dry peas somewhat higher.

#### COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

##### Overall Prospects

For Fresh Vegetables: Supplies of vegetables for fresh market probably will be a little smaller this spring than last. Production of 7 spring plus 11 early- and mid-spring crops is estimated to be 4 percent smaller than last year and 3 percent below the 1949-56 average. These 18 vegetables typically make up about three-fourths of total spring tonnage of fresh vegetables, excluding melons. Substantially smaller crops than a year earlier, are in prospect for early spring broccoli, cabbage and onions, and spring carrots and green peppers. Moderate to slight reductions are also expected for early spring cauliflower, lettuce, early- and mid-spring asparagus combined, and spring celery and spinach. Production of early spring snap beans and sweet corn is expected to be about in line with that of a year earlier. Early spring cucumbers and tomatoes are the only major crops for which sizeable increases are indicated. However, crops in some areas were planted late and in other areas

have been delayed by adverse weather. In the early weeks of spring marketings from these areas were very light. Consequently, for a number of spring vegetables remaining prospective supplies probably are larger than a year earlier.

Consumer demand for vegetables appears to be about the same as a year earlier. Partly because of delayed harvest of some early spring crops, supplies of some items will pick up rapidly during the next few weeks and prices are expected to decline more than seasonally. Barring further adverse weather, prices in late spring may average below the relatively high levels of a year earlier.

Although production estimates are not available for melons, yields near the average of recent years on the indicated acreage would result in at least moderately more cantaloups and watermelons this spring than last.

For Processed Vegetables: The total carryover of processed vegetables at the beginning of the 1958 pack year is expected to be moderately smaller than a year earlier, but substantially above the 1949-56 average. Total stocks of canned vegetables on January 1 were slightly smaller than a year ago, and indications are that net outmovement during the early months of 1958 has been significantly larger than that of a year earlier. The heavier outmovement so far this year has been due largely to a shortage of many fresh vegetables. However, stocks of most items are still heavy and prices relatively low. Cannery stocks of green peas on March 1 were particularly burdensome, more than half again as large as either last year or the 1949-56 average. Cannery also held substantially more snap beans than in 1957, and slightly more sweet corn and beets. Among other items, March 1 cannery stocks of asparagus, carrots and sauerkraut was significantly smaller than a year earlier, but above average. Indications are that remaining supplies of tomatoes, tomato juice, lima beans and pumpkin and squash are also down materially from a year earlier, but tomato juice and pumpkin and squash are probably above average.

Frozen vegetables have benefitted substantially from the shortage of fresh items. This year net outmovement in January-March amounted to 257 million pounds, a third more than in the same months of 1957. Stocks of frozen vegetables in commercial cold storage on April 1 amounted to 625 million pounds, 6 percent less than on April 1, 1957. Stocks of sweet corn were substantially larger than a year earlier and asparagus, mixed vegetables, green peas, and french fried potatoes slightly to moderately larger. But these increases were more than offset by substantially smaller holdings of snap beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, mixed peas and carrots, spinach, and "other" vegetables, and slightly smaller holdings of lima beans.

Consumer demand for processed items into the new pack year is expected to be about the same as a year earlier. Tomatoes and tomato juice are significantly higher in price than last year, and firm to higher prices for some other items are likely in the months ahead. But supplies, both total and for most individual items, are still heavy and prices during the next 3 to 4 months are likely to continue relatively low. Although smaller than a year earlier carryover stocks at the end of the current season are expected to be ample to

heavy and canners probably will seek a 1958 pack moderately smaller than last year. Smaller quantities of some frozen items are likely to be put up than in 1957, but the overall frozen pack is likely to be near that of a year earlier.

March and April intentions reports indicate that processors plan to plant or contract a significantly smaller acreage of vegetables for processing this year than last. Combined prospective acreage of 9 vegetables for commercial processing--green lima beans, snap beans, beets, cabbage for kraut (contract acreage only), sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, winter and early spring spinach and tomatoes--is down 9 percent from a year earlier. The 9 crops typically make up about 95 percent of the tonnage of the 10 processing crops regularly reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. These early reports of intentions are only tentative. Several factors, including the intentions reports, may cause processors to modify their plans.

#### Early Prospects for Major Items

##### Celery

Supplies of celery in January were about in line with a year earlier, but prices averaged materially lower than the high levels of last year. However, prices were about in line with most other recent years. Since mid-winter, however, shipments have been substantially lighter than for the corresponding weeks of 1957, and prices have averaged much higher.

Indications are that supplies during the next 4 to 6 weeks are likely to average near those both of a year earlier and the 1949-56 average. Although acreage for spring harvest in Florida was up sharply, the crop has suffered repeated weather damage and yields are expected to be the lowest since 1948. Prospective production in Florida is substantially below last year. However, weather has been favorable for development of the California crop and, despite a smaller acreage, production promises to be moderately larger than last year. Prices in late spring may average below the high levels of a year earlier.

##### Lettuce

Shipments of lettuce in January-early February were larger than a year earlier and prices were generally lower. From mid-February to late March, movement was materially lighter than in the corresponding period of 1957, and prices averaged substantially higher. Although shipments in late March-early April were heavier than those of a year earlier, this situation is probably temporary.

Indications are that supplies of lettuce during the next 4 to 6 weeks are likely to be a little lighter than a year earlier and prices are expected to average higher. The early spring crop, produced principally in Arizona and California, is expected to be about 4 percent smaller than last year. But

there has been an upward trend in production of early spring lettuce, and the 1958 prospective output is still substantially above the 1949-56 average.

Complete data are not available on probable acreage of lettuce from the late spring crop, which contributes less than a fifth of total spring tonnage. But reports on acreage planted for June harvest in the Salinas-Watsonville District of California indicate that June supplies from that area are likely to be much smaller than a year earlier.

### Onions

The early spring acreage in Texas has varied materially from year to year, but in recent years has tended to decline from the level of the late 1940's and early 1950's. The declining acreage has been more than offset by increasing yields, so that production during the period has tended to increase. The indicated 1958 acreage is down 10 percent from a year earlier and more than a fourth below the 1949-56 average. Acreage was larger than a year earlier in the Raymondville and Lower Valley section but was smaller in all other areas. Since prospective yields are the same as in 1957, production is expected to be a tenth smaller than last year but a tenth above the 1949-56 average.

Harvest in the Raymondville and Lower Valley section, the earliest area, was delayed by rain and movement in the early part of the season was very light. Excessive rains also forced abandonment of mature acreage, resulted in losses of marketable onions on surviving acreage, and forced many growers to use artificial drying in an attempt to maintain quality. New crop onions did not begin to move in volume until late March, about 2 weeks later than last year, and carlot shipments through April 12 were less than two-thirds those of a year earlier. With supplies of old crop onions also smaller than a year ago, prices of both old and new crop onions in March and early April averaged substantially above both a year earlier and the 1949-56 average.

Acreage of the late spring crop, which typically makes up about half the spring tonnage, is up almost a third from last year and 13 percent above the 1949-56 average. Sharp increases from a year earlier occurred in Arizona, California and North Carolina, and a more moderate increase in Texas. California typically produces about two-thirds of this crop. Only Georgia has less acreage than in 1957. Yields near the 1953-57 average, by States, would result in substantially more late spring onions than either last year or average. Normally a production this large would result in disastrously low prices to farmers. In view of the lighter early spring crop and the prospect of a smaller early summer production, however, the crop may move with little or no difficulty. Acreage of early summer onions is down 17 percent from a year earlier but is 45 percent above the 1949-56 average. Normal abandonment and 1954-57 average yield by States on the indicated acreage would result in a production substantially below 1957 but much above average.

According to early March intentions reports, producers of onions for late summer harvest plan to plant a slightly larger acreage of onions this year than last. This is by far the most important of the seasonal onion crops, accounting for about three-fourths of our annual supply. Among the more important producing States, moderate to substantial increases in acreage from 1957 are indicated in Colorado, Washington and California with slight increases in Oregon and New York. Moderate to substantial reductions are in prospect in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Kansas. Normal abandonment and 1953-57 average yields, by States, on the indicated acreage would result in a production slightly above last year and moderately above the suggested guide.

### Cantaloups

Indications are that acreage of cantaloups for spring harvest is about a tenth smaller than last year and a little more than a tenth below the 1949-56 average. Acreage is up in Florida, Arizona and California. But weather in south Texas was unfavorable for planting and growth, and producers cut acreage almost 50 percent, more than offsetting increases in the other States. Weather has also been unfavorable for development of the crop in Florida, and growth in the Blythe and Coachella areas of California have been retarded by low temperatures and unseasonal rains. The crop in the Imperial Valley has made good progress. The reduction in acreage this year was in relatively low yielding areas with an expansion in high yielding States. Thus, yield this year probably will average considerably above that of last year. Normal abandonment and 1953-57 average yields, on the indicated acreage would result in a production about a tenth larger than the small crop of last spring, but 15 percent less than the 1949-56 average. Demand for spring cantaloups has been strong in recent years. But crown blight and other production problems have curtailed output. Farmers are expected to receive relatively high prices for the below average supplies in prospect this spring.

### Watermelons

Production of late spring watermelons in Florida and California has increased substantially during the past decade. Most of the increase has been due to acreage expansion and higher yields in Florida, which typically produces more than four-fifths of late spring output.

This year indicated acreage of watermelons for late spring harvest is slightly smaller than a year ago but almost a fifth above the 1949-56 average. Because of recurring adverse weather, much of the acreage in Florida has been replanted, and the crop particularly in south Florida is very late and irregular in development. Yields again are likely to be relatively low with supplies lighter than in most recent years. However, because of replanting and delayed development in south Florida, which is typically earlier than the central Florida crop, prospects are for serious overlap of harvest in the two areas which may result in some marketing difficulties.

Based on March intentions reports, growers probably planted about 335,500 acres of the important early summer crop and plan to plant 27,350 acres for late summer harvest. If these plantings materialize, acreage for early summer harvest will be about a tenth larger than last year, and that for late summer harvest 3 percent larger. Should yields, by States be near the 1953-57 average, production of watermelons for early summer harvest would be substantially larger than either last year or the 1949-56 average, while production for late summer harvest would be about the same as last year but substantially above average.

### Cabbage

Fresh: During the first few months of 1958 supplies of cabbage have been substantially larger than a year earlier, although below the 1949-56 average. Demand for cabbage has been strong, largely because of curtailed supplies of many other fresh vegetables. Although weekly arrivals in the 32 markets have been consistently larger than those of a year earlier, prices received by growers in January and February were much higher than in the first two months of 1957. By early March, however, the larger and increasing supplies resulted in a sharp break in the market, bringing prices somewhat below those of a year earlier. In early April arrivals were about in line with those of a year earlier and prices were higher.

Indications are that supplies of cabbage during the remainder of the spring are likely to average below those of last spring. Prospective production of early spring cabbage, which usually makes up about two-thirds of total spring tonnage is down about a tenth. Largely because of unfavorable weather at planting time, acreage for late spring harvest is down 7 percent. If growing conditions are normal, production will be moderately smaller than last year. Prices received by growers during the next 6 to 8 weeks are likely to average at least moderately above those of a year earlier.

Intentions reports indicate that acreage of cabbage for both early and late summer harvest is likely to be slightly smaller than last year. Normal abandonment and 1953-57 average yields on the intended acreage would result in slightly less cabbage in early summer than a year ago, and materially less in late summer.

Processed: Supplies of sauerkraut have been substantially smaller this season than the heavy supplies of the previous season. But movement into consumption in the period July-December was considerably less than that for the comparable period of 1956, and prices during most of the period averaged below those of a year earlier. Since January, rate of movement has compared favorably with that of a year earlier, and prices are slightly higher. Cannery stocks on March 1 amounted to 5.0 million cases, 24/2 equivalents compared with 5.8 million cases a year earlier and a 1952-56 average of 4.3 million.

According to intentions reports as of April 1, processors plan to plant or contract 8,100 acres of cabbage for kraut, 9 percent more than last year but less than the 1949-56 average. Yields near the 1956-57 average on the intended acreage would result in a tonnage moderately larger than last year. In addition to production from this contract acreage, processors in most years purchase relatively large quantities of cabbage from open market supplies.

### Snap Beans

Fresh: Production of snap beans for early spring harvest is estimated at 420,000 hundredweight, slightly above the light crop of last year but more than a fourth below the 1949-56 average. The crop, produced largely in Florida, has been delayed so that volume shipment will continue later in the season than usual. In recent weeks, shipments have picked up rapidly and prices have declined sharply. Acreage of the mid-spring crop is down slightly, and barring extremely high yield such as last year, production promises to be materially smaller than either last year or average.

No acreage or production estimates are available for the late spring crop which usually makes up 40 to 50 percent of total spring tonnage. The U. S. Department of Agriculture acreage-marketing guide suggests the same acreage as in 1957. The recommended acreage with 1951-55 average yields would result in a production moderately smaller than either last year or the 1949-56 average.

Processed: Although stocks of canned snap beans at the beginning of the current season were lighter than a year earlier, the pack was up substantially and supplies for the season were record large. Prices have been near the relatively low levels of a year earlier. Movement to date, augmented in the first quarter of 1958 by a shortage of the fresh item, has been at or near a record, and in recent weeks prices have shown some firmness. Nevertheless, supplies are still heavy and the prospect is for another large carryover at the end of the current marketing season.

April 1 intentions reports indicate that producers plan to plant slightly fewer acres of snap beans for processing than last year. Prospective acreage for freezing, which makes up about a fourth of the total, is up 4 percent, but acreage for canning is down 2 percent. Normal abandonment and 1953-57 average yields on the indicated acreage would result in a pack only slightly below that of 1957. Such a pack with anticipated carryover would result in continued large supplies during the 1958-59 season.

### Corn

Fresh: Recurring weather damage cut production of winter sweet corn in Florida to only an eighth of last year and about a quarter of the 1949-56 average. These extremely light supplies moved at prices well above those of both a year earlier and average. Shipments will pick up rapidly during the next few weeks, as volume becomes available from the early spring crop.

Production for early spring harvest, which typically makes up about 70 percent of total spring tonnage, is estimated at 1.9 million hundredweight. This is about the same as the light tonnage of last year, but 14 percent below the 1949-56 average. Acreage for harvest is up from a year earlier, but the crop in Florida, which makes up 80 to 90 percent of the early spring tonnage, has suffered from adverse weather and yields are expected to be substantially lower. Indicated yield is also lower in Texas. No acreage or production estimates are available for the less important late spring crop.

Processed: Processed corn continues in heavy supply. Due largely to lower average yields, production of corn for processing in 1957 was substantially smaller than in the previous season. The pack of frozen corn was 9 percent smaller than in 1956, and the canned pack 12 percent smaller. Because of larger carryover stocks, however, supplies of frozen corn available this season were about the same as the heavy supplies available in the previous season; supplies of canned corn were almost as large as last season and substantially larger than the 1949-55 average.

The large supplies have proved burdensome. Prices received by canners have averaged near the low levels of a year earlier. Despite bargain prices, movement of canned corn during the first eight months of the season has been a little smaller than last season. Canner's stocks on March 1 amounted to 16.7 million cases, 24/2 equivalents, 563,000 cases larger than a year ago and almost 4.8 million cases above the 1949-56 average. Stocks of frozen corn on April 1, at 57.5 million pounds were 6.5 million pounds above those of last year.

In view of anticipated heavy carryover of stocks at the end of the current season, processors are planning a smaller pack this year. Packers in early April indicated intentions to plant or contract 400,460 acres of corn for processing, 13 percent less than last year. The same percentage cut is indicated for both canning and freezing. Canning represents about 85 percent of the total acreage for processing. Normal abandonment and 1954-57 average yields on the indicated acreage would result in a production about a seventh less than last year and slightly less than the 1949-56 average. This level of production would mean substantially smaller supplies of canned corn and at least moderately smaller supplies of frozen corn in 1958-59 than during the current season. Because of the expected large carryover at the end of the current season, however, supplies of canned corn next season would still be heavy.

### Tomatoes

Fresh: Because of adverse weather and virtual failure of the Florida crop, prices of tomatoes this winter were extremely high, with the bulk of market supplies imported from Mexico and Cuba. Domestic marketings should pick up rapidly as harvest of the delayed early spring crop becomes general. Acreage of this crop, which accounts for about three-fourths of total spring production, is up a third, with sharp increases in both Florida and Texas. But yields in Florida are expected to be much lower than last year, and in

Texas moderately lower. California acreage is down. Prospective early spring production, at 3.6 million hundredweight, is 5 percent above last year but 5 percent below the 1949-56 average. The crop has been delayed, particularly in Florida, so that harvesting after mid-spring will be heavier than usual. No data are available on probable acreage of the less important late spring crop.

Processed: Processors cut acreage of tomatoes in 1957 by 15 percent, and yields were well below the 1956 record. The 1957 packs of tomatoes, tomato juice and most tomato products were cut back sharply from the very large packs of 1956. Nevertheless, the packs of most tomato items were above the 1949-55 average. Stocks of most items at the beginning of the season were very heavy, so that total supplies for the season were substantially above the 1949-55 average.

In view of the smaller supplies, compared with a year earlier, tomatoes and tomato juice showed a good rate of movement during the first half of the marketing season. Despite a 15 percent smaller supply for the season, movement of tomatoes in the period July-December was only 5 percent below the comparable months of 1956. Tomato juice in moderately smaller but still heavy supply, showed a slightly higher rate of movement than last season. In recent months prices of both tomatoes and tomato juice have strengthened to levels moderately above those of a year earlier. But the heavy supplies of tomato catsup, paste and puree continue to weigh on the market, and prices are generally below the levels of a year ago.

Early March reports of planting and contracting intentions indicate a 1958 acreage of tomatoes for processing 1 percent larger than last year. California, which typically produces about 60 percent of the tonnage, reportedly plans substantially the same acreage as in 1957. Among other important producing areas, prospective acreage in the Northeast is up slightly, with a 10 percent cut in New York more than offset by a 13 percent increase in Pennsylvania. No change is reported for New Jersey. In the North Central States, a moderate increase in Wisconsin and slight increases in Ohio and Indiana are almost offset by declines in other States. Similarly in the Southeast, increases in Delaware and Maryland are offset by declines in other States of the region. Normal abandonment and 1955-57 average yields on the indicated acreage would result in a production about 8 percent larger than 1957 and more than a tenth above the 1949-55 average. The market for processed tomato items has expanded sharply over the past two decades. With the expected heavy carryover of tomato products, production at the indicated level would result in overall supplies, in the 1958-59 marketing season, about in line with anticipated demand.

### Green Peas

Processed: The 1957 pack of canned green peas was substantially larger than the previous year and the largest since 1951. Stocks at the beginning of the 1957-58 season were also substantially larger than a year earlier. Thus, supplies at the beginning of the current season were about 18 percent above those of the previous season and 16 percent above the 1949-55 average.

These heavy canned supplies were faced with stiff competition from the frozen product and from large supplies of a number of other vegetables. Despite industry sales efforts and low prices, the quantity of canned peas moved during the first 7 months of the current season was only slightly larger than a year earlier. Stocks held by canners on March 1, at 14.2 million cases,  $24\frac{1}{2}$  equivalents, were more than 50 percent above both those of a year earlier and the 1949-55 average. Frozen supplies were also very heavy. Movement of frozen has been near that of last season, but stocks on April 1 were moderately above those of a year earlier.

Packers have been hard hit by the low prices received from the 1957 pack and are planning a substantially smaller pack this year. Processors in early April reported intentions to plant or contract 15 percent less acreage than last year. Acreage planned for canning and freezing are down 16 and 15 percent, respectively. Sharpest cut in acreage for freezing, which represents about a fourth of total acreage, is planned in the Western States where almost half the acreage is for freezing. In the Eastern and Central Regions combined only about 15 percent of the acreage is produced for freezing. Yields near the 1953-57 average and normal abandonment on the prospective acreage would result in a production about a fourth smaller than last year and at least moderately below the 1949-56 average. Production at this level would result in 1958-59 supplies at least moderately smaller than in the current season, but still fairly heavy.

#### Spinach

Processed: Both the canned and frozen packs of spinach were slightly smaller in 1957 than in the previous year. But stocks of both canned and frozen were larger at the beginning of the season. Movement of canned spinach since March 1, 1957 has apparently been a little lighter than a year earlier, and canner stocks on March 1 were 15 percent larger than a year ago. Frozen stocks on March 1 were about 2 million pounds smaller.

Early March reports indicate a 1958 production of 60,600 tons for canning and freezing from the winter crop in Florida and the early spring crop in California. This is about 15 percent less than last year, but about a fifth above the 1949-56 average. Winter and early spring production typically makes up 40 to 50 percent of the annual total.

#### Cucumbers for Pickles:

April 15 intentions reports indicate a prospective acreage of cucumbers for pickles 8 percent less than last year. Should this acreage materialize, 1955-57 average yields, by States, would result in a production materially below that of 1957, but moderately to substantially above the 1949-56 average.

#### Beets for Canning:

Prospective acreage of beets for canning is down 10 percent from a year earlier. Normal abandonment and 1953-57 average yields on the indicated

acreage would result in a production about a seventh below both that of 1957 and the 1949-56 average.

## POTATOES

### Spring Prospects

Supplies Lighter: Fewer potatoes will be available for market this spring than the heavy supplies of a year earlier. Storage stocks of fall crop potatoes on March 1 amounted to 47.4 million hundredweight, 11.5 million less than on March 1, 1957, and 4.9 million less than the 1950-56 average. Shipment data indicate that movement of old crop potatoes since March 1 probably has been as large as that of a year earlier. Acreage of potatoes for early spring harvest is down slightly from a year ago. The crop suffered some weather damage, and yields are expected to be substantially lower. Thus, indicated production at 3.7 million hundredweight is 15 percent below a year ago. Acreage of potatoes for late spring harvest is about 5 percent larger than last spring. But the crop in several of the southeastern States and California has been delayed and damaged by adverse weather. Barring another year of very high yield, such as last year, production of potatoes for late spring harvest will be at least moderately smaller than the large crop of last year, but may be a little above the 1949-56 average.

Potato prices have advanced sharply from the levels of early February. Light stocks in the Central States and recurring weather damage to the winter crop in Florida, have permitted wide distribution and good movement from stocks of fall crop potatoes in Maine and Idaho. With substantially fewer potatoes in prospect, prices during the next 6 to 8 weeks are expected to average materially above the low levels of a year earlier.

### Prospects After Spring

Slightly Larger Acreage Indicated: Based on past relationships between intentions reports and acreage actually planted, the Crop Reporting Board in early March estimated that potato growers in the late summer and fall States combined are likely to plant about 1 percent more acreage this year than last. Intended acreage is as large or larger than in 1957 in all sections of the country except the Central States.

Reports point to a 2 percent larger acreage than last year in the 8 eastern States, with most of the increase in Maine. Prospective acreage in New York State is the same as in 1957, with a slight increase on Long Island offset by a decline in upstate areas. Acreage in Pennsylvania is down slightly. Prospective acreage in the 5 Atlantic States, producing principally for late summer harvest, is about the same as a year earlier. Acreage declines in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina were offset by an increase in New Jersey.

Intended acreage in the 10 Central States is down 3 percent from a year earlier, with most of the decline in the leading States of North Dakota and Minnesota. Expected plantings are down 7 percent in North Dakota, and 5 percent in Minnesota. Small increases in acreage are planned in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and South Dakota. Acreage planted in the 10 Western States is expected to be about 5 percent larger than a year ago. In this Region, substantial increases are in prospect in California, Washington, New Mexico and Wyoming, moderate increases in Idaho and Oregon, and slight increases in Colorado and Utah. Nevada producers plan the same, and Montana producers moderately less acreage than last year.

Overproduction Likely: If farmers stay close to March 1 planting intentions, production of late summer and fall potatoes probably will be somewhat larger than needed to supply regular trade demand. The intended acreage in the 33 late summer and fall States is about 8 percent larger than recommended in the Department's acreage-marketing guide. On the indicated acreage 1953-57 average yield, by States, would result in a production of about 185 million hundredweight. This is about a million hundredweight less than last year and slightly above the 1952-56 average. But production has been larger than needed in a number of recent years, and supplies from the 1957 crop weighed heavily on the market last fall. Thus, a 1958 production of 185 million hundredweight of late summer and fall potatoes probably would result in burdensome supplies and low prices next fall.

#### Diversion Program Ended

The sharp increase in potato prices in late February-early March ended the need for the USDA diversion program which was terminated as of March 15. Total diversions under the program amounted to about 10.8 million hundredweight, compared with 11.3 million to the same date last year. A larger quantity of culls were diverted this season--6.0 million hundredweight from the 1957 fall crop compared with 3.8 million to the same date last year.

### SWEETPOTATOES

#### Prices Since November Above A Year Earlier

In the period August-November 1957 shipments of sweetpotatoes were somewhat heavier than a year earlier and prices averaged a little lower. The increase in market supplies over 1956 was due mainly to larger production and heavier shipments from Maryland, Virginia and other States which market most of their sweetpotatoes at or soon after harvest. Since December, however, shipments in most weeks have been lighter than a year ago and prices received by farmers have been above year earlier levels. Mid-month prices received by farmers for the period December 1957-March 1958 averaged \$5.28 per hundredweight compared with \$4.42 a year earlier. Shipping point prices in Louisiana in early April indicate that this relationship has not changed significantly. Remaining light supplies of 1957 crop sweetpotatoes are expected to continue to move at prices above those for the corresponding weeks of 1957.

Little Change in Acreage  
Intended in 1958

The March 1 intentions report indicates that growers plan to plant 294,000 acres of sweetpotatoes in 1958. This is substantially the same as the small 1957 acreage, but a fifth less than the 1949-56 average. Growers in Louisiana, which produces about a fourth of the total crop, reported intentions to plant a slightly larger acreage. Among other important States, acreage is expected to be up substantially in Texas, and up moderately in New Jersey, Virginia and Mississippi. On the other hand acreages are expected to be substantially smaller in South Carolina, moderately smaller in California, and slightly smaller in North Carolina.

Production and Price Prospects  
for the 1958-59 Season

If growers plant close to intentions reports, sweetpotato supplies in the 1958-59 season probably would be smaller than in the current season. Normal abandonment and 1952-56 average yields, by States, on the intended acreage would result in a production at least moderately smaller than in the previous season, and substantially below the 1949-56 average. The demand for sweetpotatoes has declined materially during the past few years, however, and the smaller prospective production is about in line with the Department's acreage-marketing guide. Should this level of production materialize, prices next season probably would average moderately higher than in current season.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Moderate Increase in  
Acreage Intended in 1958

Intentions reports, as of March 1, indicate that growers plan to plant 1,544,000 acres to dry edible beans in 1958. This is about 5 percent more acreage than in 1957 but slightly less than the 1949-56 average. While increased plantings, compared with a year earlier, were indicated for all areas, the biggest increase is in prospect for the Northwest area in which Small Red Pinto and Great Northern beans are the principal classes. Reports indicate that plantings in this area are likely to be up about 16 percent from last year and about a tenth above the 1949-56 average.

In the Northeast, indicated acreage in New York, the leading producer of Red Kidney Beans, is the same as in 1957, but more than a fourth below the 1949-56 average. Intentions reports in Michigan, the dominant Pea Bean State, indicate a 1958 acreage 3 percent larger than last year and a fifth larger than average.

Growers in the Southwest, the main Pinto area, report plans to plant about 2 percent more acreage this year than last. Acreage in the Southwest has tended to decline in recent years, and the 1958 indicated planting

would be a fourth below the 1949-56 average. In California the acreage of Lima beans, mostly large Limas, is expected to be up about 2 percent from 1957, but substantially below average. Prospective acreage of "other" dry beans--mostly Blackeye, Pink and Small White--is 5 percent larger than last year.

Average Support Rate  
for 1958 Crop Beans Slightly  
Lower Than for 1957 Crop

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has set the national average support price for 1958 crop dry edible beans at \$6.18 per hundredweight. This is 68 percent of the February parity price and 13 cents below the support rate for 1957 crop beans.

The supported classes of 1958 crop beans will be the same as those in the 1957 program. The following support rates will apply to the various classes of dry beans produced in 1958 (U. S. No. 1 beans): Pintos \$5.37 to \$5.97 per hundredweight, depending on area; Great Northern \$6.07 to \$6.57 pea and medium white \$6.42 to \$6.92; small white and flat small white \$6.80; red kidney \$7.98; pink \$6.60; small red \$6.65 to \$6.75; large lima \$9.55; and baby lima \$4.80.

The 1958 support rates are 12 cents per hundredweight less than the 1957 rates for all classes and areas except for Pinto beans in the State of Washington, for which an additional reduction of 10 cents was made to reflect a location differential between Washington and Idaho. Premiums and discounts under the 1958 program are the same as under the 1957 program. Premiums for U. S. Choice Hand Picked, and U. S. Extra No. 1 grade beans will be 10 cents per hundredweight for all except pea beans on which the premium for U. S. Choice Hand Picked, will be 25 cents. Discounts for U. S. No. 2 beans will be 25 cents per hundredweight.

Price Support Operations  
for 1957 Crop Beans

Production of dry edible beans in 1957 amounted to 15.8 million hundredweight, down 1.4 million from a year earlier and somewhat below estimated domestic and export movement for the 1957-58 season. With lighter supplies and higher prices for most types of beans, the quantity of 1957 crop beans placed under price support was only about half as large as for the 1956 crop. About 2.3 million hundredweight of 1957 crop beans were placed under price support compared with 4.7 million in the previous season. Pintos accounted for the bulk of beans placed under support. Deliveries of 1957 crop beans to the CCC are expected to be much lighter than the 2.9 million hundredweight delivered from the 1956 crop. In States where loans matured on February 28 preliminary data indicate that only about 32,000 hundredweight of 1957 crop beans had been delivered to CCC compared with about 2.1 million hundredweight a year ago. Much lighter deliveries are also expected in those States in which loans mature on April 30. Last year deliveries in the latter States amounted to about 875,000 hundredweight.

Prospects for the  
1958-59 Crop Year

Indications are that supplies of dry edible beans in the 1958-59 season are likely to be at least moderately larger than in the previous season, but substantially below the 1949-56 average. Carryover stocks at the end of the current season are expected to be less than a year earlier. But the smaller expected carryover probably will be more than offset by a substantially larger 1958 production. If farmers stay close to March 1 planting intentions, 1952-56 average yields by States would result in a production of about 17.3 million hundredweight. This would be about a tenth larger than last year and moderately above the 1949-56 average.

Should 1958 production be near the calculated 17.3 million hundredweight, total supplies available in the 1958-59 season would be 6 to 8 percent above those of the current season, but 13 to 15 percent below the 1949-56 average. In most recent years, however, dry edible beans have been in surplus and a substantial portion of annual production has been delivered to the CCC under price support programs. Thus, 1958 production at the indicated level would still be moderately above domestic and export sales in most recent years. Barring an unusually large export demand, prices in the 1958-59 season probably would average moderately to substantially below those of the current season.

DRY FIELD PEAS

Supplies Burdensome,  
Prices Low

Although fewer dry peas are available than a year ago, commercial supplies are larger than the 1949-56 average and substantially above anticipated requirements. Heavy carry-over stocks at the beginning of the current marketing year plus above average production in 1957 resulted in too many dry peas. Supplies became more burdensome as the season advanced and any strong export movement failed to develop. Despite very low prices, exports in the September-January period amounted to only 364,000 hundredweight, about half the large volume of a year earlier. Mid-month prices received by farmers during this period averaged \$3.10 per hundredweight compared with \$4.51 for the comparable months of 1956-57. In mid-March the price received by farmers averaged \$2.87 per hundredweight, substantially below any price for that date since 1950.

Domestic demand for dry peas for all purposes may be about the same this year as last. With near normal crops in Europe in 1957, exports during the next few months are expected to be fairly light. Stocks at the end of the marketing season probably will be somewhat smaller than the heavy stocks of a year earlier and near the 1952-56 average. Prices during the remainder of the season are expected to continue relatively low.

Prospect for Substantially  
Smaller Acreage and  
Production Than in 1957

Farmers on March 1 reported intentions to plant 249,000 acres of dry field peas in 1958. This is 12 percent below 1957 acreage and about a fifth below the 1949-56 average. Intended acreage is the same as last year in North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon and California. But the two leading States, Washington and Idaho, report intentions to cut acreage 10 and 15 percent respectively. Prospective plantings are also down in Colorado and Minnesota. Normal abandonment and yields near the 1952-56 average, on the intended acreage, would result in a production of 2.7 million hundredweight. This is 18 percent less than last year, and about 15 percent below the 1949-56 average.

Supplies in 1958-59 May Be About  
in Balance with Demand

Domestic utilization of dry peas in recent years has generally amounted to 2.5 million to 2.8 million hundredweight. Exports have varied widely but except in years of severe damage to the European crop have usually amounted to 0.5 million to 0.6 million hundredweight. Thus, total domestic and export requirements usually amounted to 3.0 to 3.4 million hundredweight. Prospects point to a relatively heavy carryover of dry peas at the end of the current marketing season. Should farmers stay close to planting intentions, a near normal growing season would result in supplies in 1958-59 about in line with domestic and usual export requirements. If supplies for the 1958-59 season are near the calculated level, prices are likely to average somewhat above the low level of the current season.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES IN ACREAGE AND YIELD FOR SEASONAL POTATO CROPS 1/

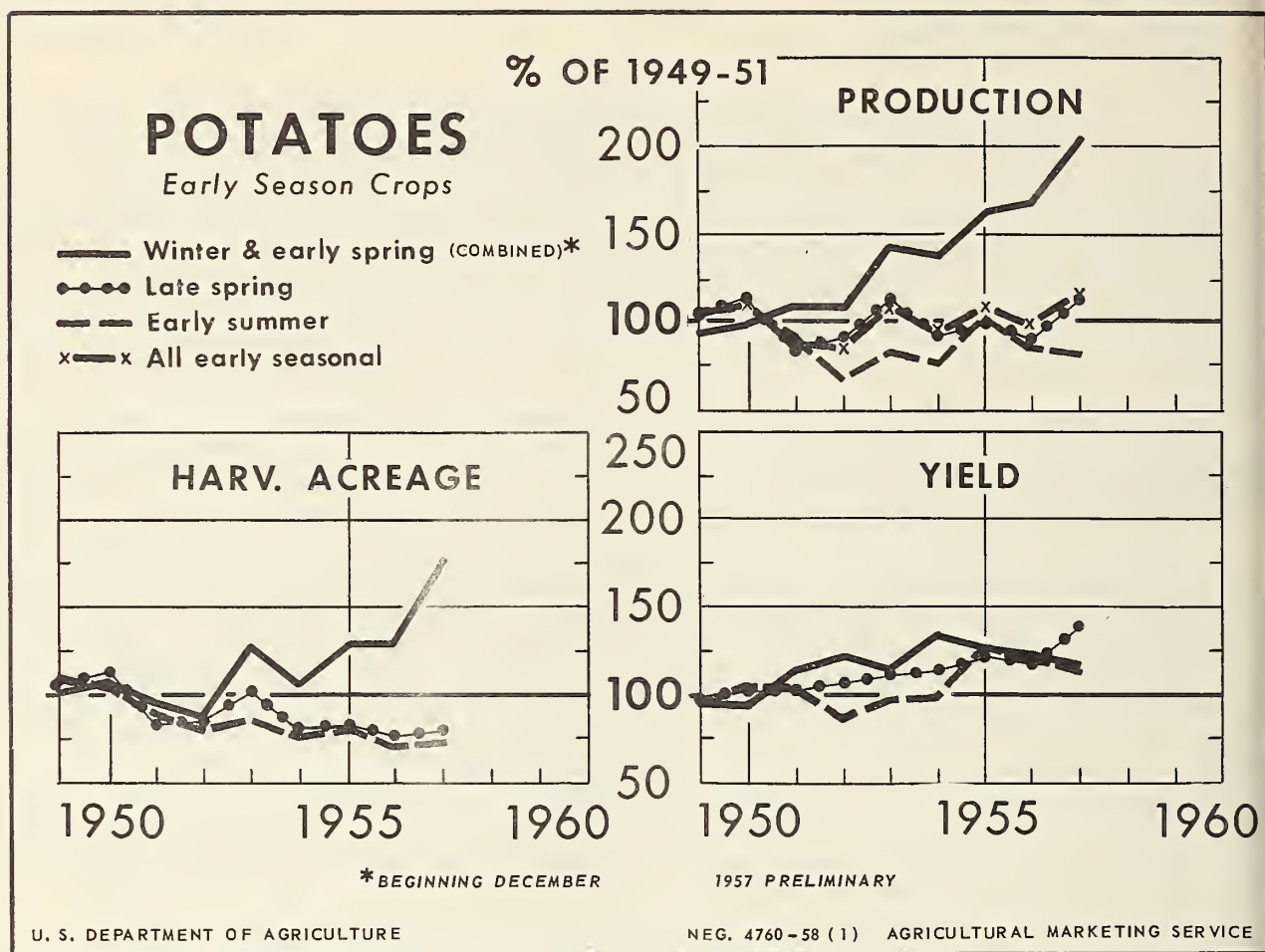
Olman Hee 2/

Acreage and yield of potatoes in this country have shown greater percentage changes in opposite trends in the last 20 years than those for any other major crop. Except for four years when there were slight increases over the previous year, harvested acreage of potatoes has declined steadily since the late 1930's and in 1957 was only half of that in 1940. But yields per acre have increased so sharply that total production has been largely maintained.

Acreage and yield trends differed among the seasonal potato crops and among producing areas. This article describes briefly trends for seasonal potato crops and notes some influences affecting changes in acreage and yield.

1/ Data for seasonal potato crops reported by the Crop Reporting Board, AMS, since 1949, are given in this study for winter and early spring combined, late spring, and early summer crops and since 1935 for late summer and fall crops combined.

2/ Analytical Statistician, Statistical and Historical Research Branch, AMS.



Legend.--Acreage and yield of potatoes for winter and early spring harvest differ more from national trends than for any other seasonal group. Acreage declined slightly from 1949 to 1952 but has since increased sharply (see table 3). In the last three years acreage has been far above the 1949-51 average. The percentage increase is significantly greater than the change for any other seasonal group. Florida accounted for most of the rise, though California also showed an increase.

Yield of winter and early spring crops increased during the greater part of the 1949-1957 period and then dropped off somewhat largely due to adverse weather. However, the 1957 yield was 16 percent above the 1949-51 average (see table 4).

Largely as a result of increased acreage, production of winter and early spring potatoes showed the most pronounced trend of any seasonal group, rising from 2 to 4 percent of U. S. total annual production. Although these crops annually represent a relatively small share of the total U. S. potato crop, the sharp upsurge in production has had at least a moderate effect on shipments and prices for other seasonal crops (see table 5).

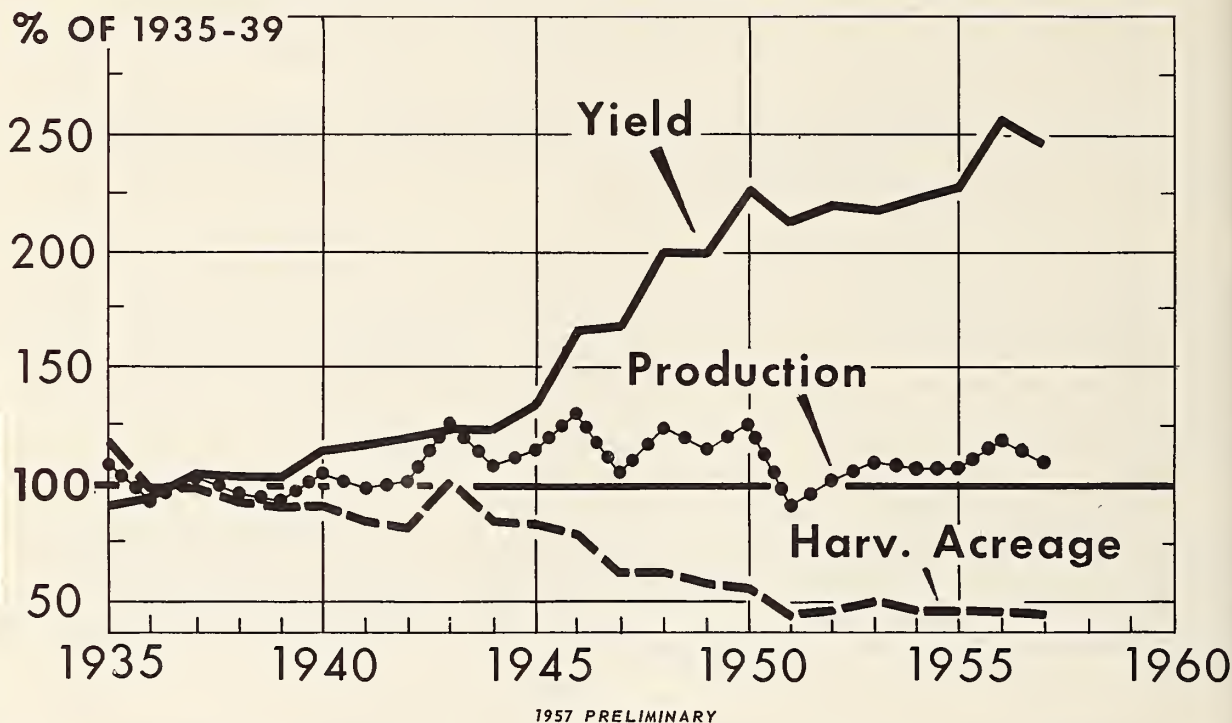
Acreage decreases of late spring and early summer potato crops each followed similar patterns, declining about a fifth and a fourth, respectively, over the 1949-1957 period (see table 3). This decline was relatively greater than the decrease of about one-tenth in the late summer and fall crops during that particular period. North and South Carolina and Arkansas reported important acreage declines in the late spring group, and Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina in the early summer group.

Yields increased in both the late spring and early summer seasonal groups, and in each of the past three seasons were substantially above the 1949-51 average (see table 4). States reporting increased yields in the late spring group were California, Arizona and Alabama, and in the early summer group, Delaware, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Production of late spring potatoes fluctuated widely during the 1949-57 period, but showed no definite trend. Production for early summer harvest moderately declined (see table 5). These crops combined average slightly over 15 percent of U. S. total annual production.

# POTATOES

*Acreage, Yield and Production for Late Summer and Fall Crops Combined*



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 4758-58 (1) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Legend.--Acreage of the important late summer and fall crops showed an almost gradual downtrend except for 1943 for the first decade following 1935. During the years 1944-1950 a sharp decline occurred (see table 6). Since 1950 annual acreage has generally been a little less than half the 1935-39 average. There were, moreover, marked differences in changes among States. Acreage in Maine and Idaho actually increased from 1935 to 1948. Acreage in Idaho continued to increase until 1957. Maine acreage dropped after 1948, then increased but has never regained the 1948 peak.

Yields for late summer and fall crops increased sharply, and in the last three years have been about 2-1/3 times the 1935-39 average (see table 6). The increase was sharpest in the immediate postwar years when fertilizer applications per acre were at their highest level. In about half of the years in the two decades, Maine led the States in yield per acre, followed by California, Washington and Oregon. Idaho, although the second ranking State in production, continued to show moderately lower yields than these States.

Production of the late summer and fall crops, which account for about 80 percent of total annual production, fluctuated widely over the 1935-57 period but showed no significant trend. As these crops form the bulk of the U. S. total crop, acreage, yield and production trends for both are very similar. (See tables 2 and 6).

### Factors Influencing Acreage and Yield Changes

Many important influences have had an effect on both acreage and yield changes of the various seasonal potato crops. The more significant influences that affect acreage trends appear to be: changes in numbers of farms producing; shifts to alternative farm enterprises; changes in prices received; technological improvements and shifts in location of production to more suitable areas. 3/

Increased demand by consumers for the usually higher-priced "new crop" potatoes and increased demand by processors in the chipping industry have expanded winter and early spring acreage.

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3/ See Trends in the Geographic Pattern of Late Crop Potato Production by Will M. Simmons in The Vegetable Situation, TVS-123, February 1957.

Shifts from low acreage, low producing farms (largely for home use) to increased numbers of large farms <sup>4/</sup> and increased mechanization have resulted in acreage changes in specialized potato producing areas, particularly for late summer and fall crops. The overall result, however, was a sharp reduction in acreage of the latter crops. But this shift toward specialized, concentrated areas of production for late summer and fall crops has probably given buyers of volume and quality the type of potatoes most desired.

Among the more important factors that appear to affect yield trends are: shifts to higher yielding areas; improvement in varieties; expansion and improvement of irrigation; new fertilizers and fertilizer combinations; more effective fertilizer applications; wider use of certified seed; and new and wider use of improved pesticides.

Varietal improvement leading to better eating qualities and disease resistance led many potato producers to switch to new or improved varieties during the last two decades. The shift has been toward varieties which grow well under given climatic conditions and also largely produce heavy yields.

Irrigation has been prevalent in the Western States for many years, but improved methods are being practiced in those States. Increased numbers of Eastern States are also adopting irrigation.

Fertilizer applications per acre increased quite sharply from 1935 to 1950, most of that increase being evidenced in the price support years, 1943-50. Fertilizer prices in terms of deflated dollars declined almost continually during the period 1935-50. This may have contributed to increased use of fertilizer.

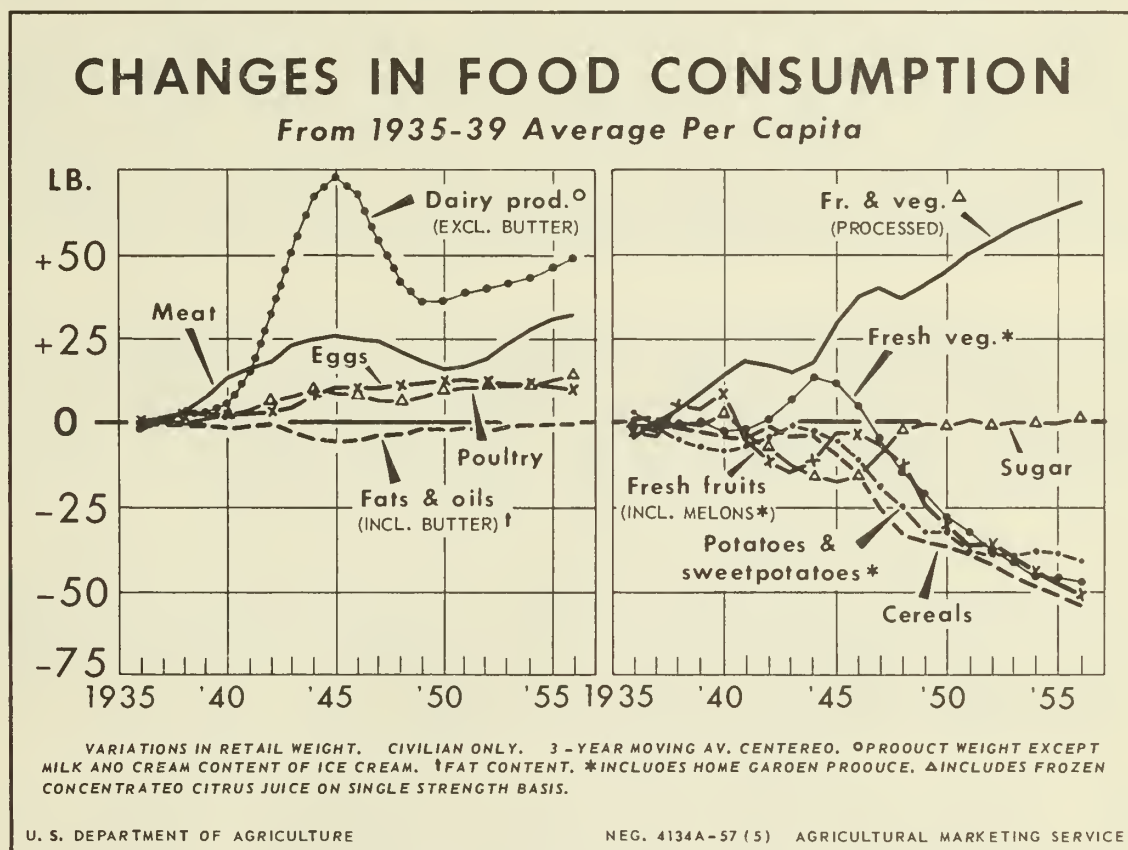
<sup>4/</sup> For a detailed summarization, see Potatoes - Summary of 1954 Crop Census with Comparisons by James V. Fahey, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS Stat. Bull. 198, 1956.

## THE CHANGING PATTERN OF VEGETABLE AND POTATO CONSUMPTION

### Will M. Simmons

People in this country use annually an average of more than 1500 pounds of food per person. 1/ Vegetables alone make up some 200 pounds of this total and potatoes more than 100 pounds.

Total consumption of food per person changes little over time. But shopping and eating habits, the kinds of food consumed and the form in which foods are bought change markedly. For example, consumers are eating much less potatoes and sweetpotatoes today than 15 or 20 years ago, but significantly more commercially produced fruits and vegetables (figure 1). Use of fruit in the fresh form declined sharply over the period, and use of fresh vegetables decreased moderately. But these declines for both fruits and vegetables were



1/ Fresh equivalent, retail weight--Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-52, Supplement for 1956.

more than offset by the rapid increase in processed items. Consumers are also eating more dairy products, meats, poultry and eggs. The shifts which have occurred in vegetables and potatoes appear to be part of a trend away from high energy, starchy foods and toward more low calorie, high protein and vitamin content foods. The ensuing discussion examines some of the forces which have contributed to these changes for vegetables and potatoes.

The increase in income per person probably has been one of the most important factors influencing the changing pattern of consumption. People in this country tend to spend more on food as their income, after taxes, increases. Since the total pounds of food does not change much over time, these increases in expenditures represent a shift in the kinds of food purchased. The shift has been to a wider variety and more expensive kinds of food and toward more processing, packaging and distribution services. This is evident in the shift away from potatoes--a relatively inexpensive item--and in the vegetable area the marked increase in the proportion of these items sold in the processed form. Data from the 1955 Food Consumption Survey indicated that in all regions except the South, consumption of potatoes was highest in households with family incomes of less than \$4,000 per year and somewhat lower in higher income groups. Conversely, consumption of vegetables per person increased as income increased. For both potatoes and vegetables, use in the processed forms tended to increase as income increased.<sup>3/</sup> According to a recent study <sup>2/</sup> real income per person in 1965 is expected to be up a sixth from current levels, and by 1975 up about 40 percent.

The declining importance of home-produced foods has contributed to the increase in per capita consumption of commercially produced vegetables. National Surveys of Food Consumption, conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, indicated that in the spring of 1942 about 18 percent of all food consumed at home was home-produced. In the spring of 1955 the proportion home-produced amounted to only 8 percent of the total.

Another factor influencing our eating habits has been the increased variety and availability of many fresh items. A number of factors have combined to bring about greater seasonal and geographic availability of fresh vegetables. For example, production of fresh vegetables for winter season harvest increased almost 80 percent from 1939-41 to 1955-57 compared with little more than 40 percent increase in the annual total.

In addition we can now get better, more widespread distribution of fresh products. Through institutional and industry cooperation, temperature and moisture requirements have been established and refrigeration equipment developed to economically refrigerate items all along the line from producer to consumer.

Along with improved equipment transportation agencies also provide faster, more efficient services. The sharp increase in motor truck transport has

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<sup>2/</sup> Prospective Domestic Demands for Food and Fiber, by Dr. Rex F. Daly. Congressional Joint Economic Committee, November 1957.

<sup>3/</sup> The Vegetable Situation, July 1957, and October 1957.

resulted in faster, more flexible movement for many perishable items. These improvements in transportation and refrigeration mean not only that perishables can be more readily moved from distant points of production, but also that the original high-quality and freshness is maintained. For most vegetables consumed primarily in the fresh form, particularly "salad vegetables" as distinguished from "cooking vegetables", which are also canned and/or frozen, these improvements have contributed to increased consumption.

Another very important consideration in the vegetable field, in fact in the entire food field, in the last two decades has been the trend toward more and better processed products. New developments and improved technology in processing and handling in recent years have made it possible for processors to provide consumers with high quality canned and frozen vegetables in larger quantities than ever before. Through the use of larger, more efficient plants and labor-saving equipment, packers have been able to provide these processed items at very reasonable prices. The homemakers have responded favorably to this attempt to reduce her time and effort in meal preparation, and consumption of processed vegetables has increased rather sharply during the past 15 or 20 years. The proportion of commercially produced vegetables processed increased from about a third of the total in 1935-39 to almost half the total in 1953-57; during the same period the proportion of potatoes processed increased from a negligible quantity to almost a fifth of the total. In very recent years there has been a phenomenal increase in use of frozen prepared foods, including vegetables and potatoes.

Our eating habits have also been significantly influenced by the increasing number of women working. In January 1958 about 21 million women were employed outside the home compared with only 12 million in 1940. Today one out of every three persons employed is a woman. The need of these employees for foods which permit fast, easy meal preparation together with the longing of housewives for more time for leisure and for family have contributed to the increased desire for more prepared or partly-prepared foods.

Among other developments that have had an impact on our shopping and eating habits has been the growth of the self-service merchandising concept as exemplified by the rapid growth of the modern supermarket. This has been accompanied by increased food promotion, a wider choice of foods from which to select, generally improved storage and holding facilities for fresh and frozen produce, and consequently higher, more dependable quality.

Over a long period of time and particularly in recent years, people have become increasingly health and weight conscious. This, together with generally less strenuous physical labor, has contributed to shifts away from potatoes and other starchy high energy foods, and toward vegetables and other low calorie foods.

Many of the forces which have contributed to shifts in consumption patterns of vegetables and potatoes over the past two decades are still operative. After declining rather sharply in the immediate post World War II

period, consumption of potatoes since 1950 has been relatively stable. The introduction and expansion of processed items, together with stepped up merchandising of both fresh and processed products will slow, and conceivably could halt, any further decline in per capita consumption. Vegetable consumption is now at a relatively high level and any further long-term gain probably will encounter increasingly stiff competition from a potato industry striving to hold it's own, and from other food products. Thus, any overall gain during the next few years are likely to be relatively small compared with the rapid uptrend which occurred in the 1940's. With the prospect of higher incomes, increasing emphasis on "convenience" foods and improved technology, there is likely to be a continuing trend toward use of more processed vegetables and potatoes.

Table 2.-Potatoes, all: Trends in acreage, yield, and production, United States, 1935-57

Crop year	Acreage harvested		Yield per harvested acre		Production	
	Actual	Percentage	Actual	Percentage	Actual	Percentage
		of		of		of
	1935-39 av.		1935-39 av.		1935-39 av.	
	Thou. acres	Pct.	Cwt.	Pct.	Mill. cwt.	Pct.
1935	3,470	114	65.5	93	227	107
1936	2,960	98	65.6	93	194	91
1937	3,050	101	73.9	105	226	106
1938	2,870	95	74.4	106	214	100
1939	2,810	93	73.0	104	205	96
1940	2,830	93	79.9	113	226	106
1941	2,690	89	79.3	112	213	100
1942	2,670	88	82.9	118	221	104
1943	3,240	107	85.0	121	275	129
1944	2,780	92	82.9	118	230	108
1945	2,660	88	94.4	134	252	118
1946	2,530	83	115.7	164	292	137
1947	2,000	66	116.6	165	233	109
1948	1,980	65	136.3	193	270	127
1949	1,760	58	137.3	195	241	113
1950	1,700	56	152.6	216	259	122
1951	1,350	44	145.2	206	196	92
1952	1,400	46	151.1	214	211	99
1953	1,540	51	150.8	214	232	109
1954	1,410	46	155.4	220	220	103
1955	1,410	46	160.6	228	227	107
1956	1,390	46	175.9	249	244	115
1957 1/	1,380	46	171.9	244	236	111

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from Crop Production Reports, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 3.- Potatoes: Trends in harvested acreage, Winter and Early Spring combined, Late Spring, and Early Summer Crops, 1949-57

Crop year	Winter and Early Spring		Late Spring		Early Summer	
	Harvested	Percentage	Harvested	Percentage	Harvested	Percentage
		of 1949-51		of 1949-51		of 1949-51
	acreage	average	acreage	average	acreage	average
	Thou. acres	Pct.	Thou. acres	Pct.	Thou. acres	Pct.
1949	43.1	100	229.2	105	153.0	109
1950	45.7	106	243.0	112	145.4	103
1951	41.0	95	181.5	83	123.3	88
1952	38.7	89	185.7	85	113.3	81
1953	54.9	127	220.0	101	120.2	86
1954	44.9	104	174.9	80	108.2	77
1955	56.0	129	177.9	82	110.6	79
1956	60.0	139	166.0	76	100.1	71
1957 1/	76.0	176	174.0	80	101.0	72

1/ Preliminary. Compiled from Crop Production Reports, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 4.- Potatoes: Trends in yield per harvested acre, Winter and Early Spring combined, Late Spring, and Early Summer Crops, 1949-57

Crop year	Winter and Early Spring		Late Spring		Early Summer	
	Yield	Percentage	Yield	Percentage	Yield	Percentage
		of 1949-51		of 1949-51		of 1949-51
	average		average		average	
	Cwt.	Pct.	Cwt.	Pct.	Cwt.	Pct.
1949	118.5	94	122.2	98	75.4	95
1950	118.4	93	125.7	101	81.6	103
1951	143.6	113	125.1	101	81.4	102
1952	152.3	120	132.7	107	67.3	85
1953	142.5	112	138.4	111	76.4	96
1954	168.2	133	141.3	114	79.0	99
1955	160.3	126	151.5	122	100.0	126
1956	154.7	122	146.7	118	94.9	119
1957 1/	147.3	116	173.3	139	89.8	113

1/ Preliminary. Compiled from Crop Production Reports, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 5.- Potatoes: Production trends for Winter and Early Spring combined, Late Spring, Early Summer, and all Early Seasonal Crops, 1949-57

Crop year	Winter and Early Spring		Late Spring		Early Summer		All Early Seasonal	
	Production	Percentage of 1949-51 average	Production	Percentage of 1949-51 average	Production	Percentage of 1949-51 average	Production	Percentage of 1949-51 average
	Mil. cwt.	Pct.	Mil. cwt.	Pct.	Mil. cwt.	Pct.	Mil. cwt.	Pct.
1949	5.1	93	28.0	103	11.5	104	44.6	102
1950	5.4	98	30.5	113	11.9	107	47.8	109
1951	5.9	107	22.7	84	10.0	90	38.6	88
1952	5.9	107	24.6	91	7.6	68	38.1	87
1953	7.8	142	30.4	112	9.2	83	47.4	108
1954	7.6	137	24.7	91	8.5	77	40.8	93
1955	9.0	163	26.9	99	11.1	100	47.0	108
1956	9.3	169	24.3	90	9.5	86	43.1	99
1957 1/	11.2	204	30.1	111	9.1	82	50.4	115

1/ Preliminary. Compiled from Crop Production Reports, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 6.-Potatoes: Late Summer and Fall Crops combined, trends in acreage, yield, and production, 1935-57

Crop year	Harvested acreage		Yield per harvested acre		Production	
	Actual	Percentage of 1935-39 av.	Actual	Percentage of 1935-39 av.	Actual	Percentage of 1935-39 av.
	Thou. acres	Pct.	Cwt.	Pct.	Mil. cwt.	Pct.
1935	2,714	118	67.5	92	183	108
1936	2,266	99	70.2	95	159	94
1937	2,277	99	77.5	105	176	104
1938	2,141	93	76.4	104	164	97
1939	2,088	91	77.0	104	161	95
1940	2,109	92	83.8	114	177	105
1941	1,946	85	86.0	117	167	99
1942	1,909	83	89.3	121	171	101
1943	2,329	101	92.3	125	215	127
1944	1,986	86	91.7	124	182	108
1945	1,958	85	99.8	135	195	115
1946	1,808	79	122.8	167	222	131
1947	1,438	63	124.6	169	179	106
1948	1,437	63	147.4	200	212	125
1949	1,330	58	147.6	200	196	116
1950	1,264	55	167.2	227	211	125
1951	1,003	44	156.7	213	157	93
1952	1,060	46	163.2	221	173	102
1953	1,141	50	161.4	219	184	109
1954	1,085	47	164.8	224	179	106
1955	1,069	47	168.4	228	180	106
1956	1,060	46	189.3	257	201	119
1957 1/	1,025	45	181.4	246	186	110

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from Crop Production Reports, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 7.- Truck crops, potatoes and sweetpotatoes: Unloads at 20 markets, indicated periods, 1957 and 1958

(Expressed in carlot equivalents)

Commodity	1957						1958					
	January			February			January			February		
	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Im- ports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Im- ports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Im- ports	Total
Asparagus	---	3	---	3	---	44	---	47	---	36	106	---
Beans, lima, snap and fava	166	318	108	592	69	333	72	474	10	112	149	271
Beets	37	27	---	64	36	60	---	96	4	57	---	61
Broccoli	251	133	---	384	196	116	---	312	201	125	---	326
Brussels sprouts	76	53	---	129	57	37	---	94	85	67	---	154
Cabbage	656	1,788	---	2,444	657	1,582	---	2,249	814	1,737	13	2,564
Cantaloups and other melons 1/	---	56	---	56	---	---	191	191	3	---	75	78
Carrots	857	900	---	1,757	839	774	---	1,613	771	998	5	1,774
Cauliflower	786	526	---	1,312	440	391	---	1,256	569	503	---	1,072
Celery	1,285	1,522	---	2,807	1,205	1,506	---	2,711	1,437	1,526	---	2,963
Corn	111	149	6	266	236	261	8	505	38	83	---	121
Cucumbers	89	355	225	669	87	236	219	542	1	177	200	378
Escarole and endive	70	266	---	336	81	237	---	318	104	323	---	427
Lettuce and romaine	2,793	2,261	1	5,055	2,834	2,184	---	5,018	3,007	2,461	1	5,469
Onions, dry	739	1,575	32	2,346	606	1,296	174	2,076	646	1,809	53	2,508
Onions, green 2/	33	195	1	229	70	231	2	303	43	223	---	266
Peas, green	4	6	88	98	---	20	110	130	3	23	39	65
Peppers	203	400	122	725	238	344	104	686	56	302	150	508
Spinach	291	163	7	461	259	173	---	432	294	159	---	453
Other cooking greens	125	818	---	943	80	815	---	895	55	778	---	833
Squash	7	371	11	389	3	377	11	391	2	341	9	352
Tomatoes	647	1,557	825	3,029	665	1,568	566	2,799	223	1,147	902	2,272
Turnips and rutabagas	4	304	191	499	---	250	188	438	5	299	207	511
Watermelons	6	1	9	16	1	1	31	33	---	---	6	6
Other vegetables (including mixed)	1,725	1,112	128	2,965	1,309	1,102	175	2,586	1,386	1,113	55	2,554
Total above	10,961	14,803	1,810	27,574	9,981	13,938	1,851	25,770	9,758	14,369	1,864	25,991
Potatoes	6,816	4,946	13	11,775	6,240	4,629	42	10,911	6,912	5,899	125	12,936
Sweetpotatoes	68	1,119	10	1,197	33	1,039	---	1,072	4	1,022	13	1,039
Grand total	17,845	20,868	1,833	40,546	16,251	19,606	1,893	37,753	16,674	21,290	2,002	39,966
									14,417	17,141	3,041	34,599

1/ Except watermelons. 2/ Includes shallots, chives, cipollinas, leeks, scallions, and green onions.

Markets include: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas and Fort Worth, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City (Missouri), Los Angeles, Minneapolis and St. Paul, New Orleans, New York, Oakland and San Francisco, Portland (Oregon), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Washington, D. C.

Table 8 .- Vegetables, fresh: Representative prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when available), indicated periods, 1957 and 1958

Market and commodity	State of origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month					
			1957			1958		
			Mar. 12:	Apr. 9 :	Jan. 14:	Feb. 11:	Mar. 12:	Apr. 8
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
<b>New York:</b>								
Beans, snap, green, Valentine	Florida	Bu. bskt.	6.50	3.60	10.00	14.50	---	6.00
Beets, bunched	Texas	42's	3.67	4.25	4.45	4.25	3.65	3.39
Broccoli, bunched	California	14's, small crt.	2.90	2.75	3.78	3.56	3.75	3.35
Cabbage:								
Domestic,								
Round type	Florida	1-3/4 bu. crt.	3.06	2.35	3.32	---	2.80	3.00
Carrots:								
Bunched	California	4 doz. pony crt.	3.62	3.90	5.41	6.09	3.90	4.00
Topped, washed	California	48-1 lb. film bag:						
		crt.	3.88	3.70	7.38	5.57	4.75	4.82
Topped, washed	Texas	48-1 lb. film bag:						
		crt.	3.63	3.35	---	4.27	3.55	3.38
Cauliflower	California	WGA crt. 18's	4.85	4.25	---	4.81	4.83	4.40
Celery:								
Golden Heart	Florida	16-in. crt.	6.50	3.40	---	6.25	5.50	4.75
Pascal	California	16-in. crt.	4.13	5.25	5.09	6.17	5.95	5.60
Escarole	Florida	1-1/9 bu. crt.	1.60	1.63	3.15	4.38	3.34	1.77
Lettuce, Big Boston:	Florida	2-doz. crt.	3.40	2.63	3.13	3.88	2.75	3.25
Onions:								
Yellow, medium	New York	50-lb. sack	1.52	2.00	1.50	1.88	3.13	3.85
Yellow, medium large	Idaho	50-lb. sack	3.13	---	3.42	3.40	4.15	---
Peppers, green	Florida	Bu. bskt.	4.62	8.00	11.40	12.50	11.00	11.00
Spinach, Savoy	Texas	Bu. bskt.	2.20	---	2.29	2.25	2.09	3.88
<b>Chicago:</b>								
Beets, bunched	Texas	42's	3.15	4.50	3.88	3.58	3.35	3.2
Broccoli	California	14's, small crt.	3.00	2.00	3.13	2.95	3.40	3.00
Cabbage:								
Domestic,								
Round type	Florida	1-3/4 bu. crt.	3.20	2.75	---	---	---	---
Carrots:								
Topped, washed	California	48-1 lb. film bag:	3.25	3.25	6.42	4.25	4.00	3.50
Topped, washed	Texas	48-1 lb. film bag:	3.15	3.15	6.00	3.75	3.50	2.75
Celery:								
Golden Heart	Florida	16-in. crt.	6.50	3.75	---	---	---	---
Pascal	California	16-in. crt.	4.00	4.50	4.75	5.63	5.25	8.00
Lettuce, Iceberg, dry pack	California	2 doz. head crtn.	2.25	2.60	2.68	2.75	4.50	---
Onions:								
Sweet Spanish	Idaho	50-lb. sack	2.70	---	---	---	4.50	3.25
Yellow, medium	Illinois	50-lb. sack	1.20	1.70	1.58	1.75	2.90	---
Peppers, green	Florida	Bu. bskt.	5.75	9.00	12.90	13.50	10.00	---
Spinach, flat type	Texas	Bu. bskt.	1.85	---	1.65	1.88	2.00	1.50

Table 9.--Vegetables, fresh: Average price per hundredweight received by farmers, United States, indicated periods, 1957 and 1958

Commodity	1957			1958	
	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Jan. 15	Feb. 15	Mar. 15
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Beans, snap	12.20	14.30	15.30	24.00	24.00
Broccoli	8.20	6.40	9.30	8.50	9.30
Cabbage	2.10	2.75	2.70	4.30	2.40
Carrots	1.55	1.40	4.40	3.20	2.70
Cauliflower	4.10	3.50	5.50	3.85	4.30
Celery	4.95	3.60	3.65	5.00	3.95
Corn, sweet	4.90	4.90	7.50	8.00	6.20
Cucumbers	8.00	10.40	18.20	18.80	---
Lettuce	3.45	2.50	3.65	2.85	7.30
Onions	2.80	2.70	2.30	2.50	5.10
Peppers, green	8.80	11.00	32.50	44.00	35.00
Spinach	6.90	4.10	8.70	9.20	6.60
Tomatoes	5.80	8.00	12.90	12.70	16.30

Table 10.--Vegetables for commercial processing: Prospective plantings, average 1947-56, annual 1957 and 1958

Crop	Planted acreage			1958 as a percentage of-	
	Average : 1947-56	1957	Intended : 1958	Average : 1947-56	1957
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent	Percent
Asparagus	91,600	104,890	---	---	---
Beans, green lima	106,000	95,340	90,330	85	95
Beans, snap	133,200	157,530	156,360	117	99
Beets for canning	18,000	17,650	15,950	90	88
Cabbage for kraut					
Contract	9,000	7,440	8,100	90	109
Open market	7,300	4,370	---	---	---
Total for cabbage	---	11,810	---	---	---
Corn, sweet	477,000	460,860	400,460	84	87
Cucumbers for pickles	142,800	138,130	127,630	92	89
Peas, green	453,600	483,490	410,200	90	85
Spinach: 1/					
Winter and early spring	8,500	10,900	8,700	102	80
Late spring and fall	30,600	31,100	---	---	---
Total for spinach	---	42,000	---	---	---
Tomatoes	368,100	314,900	318,150	86	101
Total, 10 crops	1,843,900	1,826,600	---	---	---

1/ 1949-56 average.

Table 11.- Vegetables, frozen: Cold-storage holdings, March 31, 1958, with comparisons

Commodity	March average 1953-57	1957	1958		
		March 31	January 31	February 28	March 31 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Asparagus	8,817	13,938	20,062	16,838	14,295
Beans, lima	67,567	77,381	96,702	85,465	75,451
Beans, snap	44,030	49,174	70,762	57,838	45,359
Broccoli	41,746	50,364	38,667	39,085	37,756
Brussels sprouts	19,310	23,926	24,850	21,954	19,885
Cauliflower	18,489	27,821	21,106	18,927	16,803
Corn, sweet	46,174	50,975	79,467	68,282	57,506
Peas and Carrots	2/	14,350	15,354	13,347	12,492
Peas, green	88,087	138,360	204,447	177,733	147,302
Potatoes, french fries	2/	68,185	52,716	63,265	72,560
Spinach	30,469	32,972	32,413	24,821	24,847
Mixed vegetables	2/	22,266	25,712	25,009	22,970
Other vegetables	136,410	95,642	98,358	85,761	77,628
Total	501,099	665,354	780,616	698,325	624,854

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Included in other vegetables.

Table 12.- Potatoes: Prospective plantings for 1958 season, with comparisons

Seasonal group	Average 1949-56		Acreage planted		
	Acreage planted	Yield per planted acre	1957	Indicated 1958	1958 as percentage of 1957
	1,000 acres	Cwt.	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Winter 1/ 2/	24.3	154.8	46.0	38.0	82.6
Early spring 2/	24.2	132.7	32.3	31.8	98.5
Late spring 3/	199.4	133.8	175.5	172.9	98.5
Early summer 4/	123.5	80.9	101.3	103.2	101.9
Late summer and fall 5/	1,146.0	162.0	1,064.1	1,078.0	101.3
Total, all seasons	1,517.4	151.1	1,419.2	1,423.9	100.3

1/ Includes acreage planted in preceding fall.

2/ Acreage planted.

3/ Intended acreage for 1958 as of January 1.

4/ Intended acreage for 1958 as of February 1.

5/ Intended acreage for 1958 as of March 1.

Table 13.-Canned vegetables: Commercial packs 1956 and 1957 and canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks 1957 and 1958, by commodities, United States

Commodity	Pack		Stocks					
	1956	1957	Canner 1/			Wholesale distributors 1/		
			Date	1957	1958	Date	1957	1958
	1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's
Major commodities								
Beans, snap	23,982	26,174	Mar. 1	9,919	11,304	Jan. 1	2,555	2,459
Corn, sweet	35,668	31,533	Mar. 1	16,131	16,694	Jan. 1	3,340	3,230
Peas, green	29,248	33,857	Mar. 1	8,951	14,228	Jan. 1	2,961	3,287
Tomatoes	29,883	21,686	Jan. 1	16,312	11,964	Jan. 1	3,203	3,063
Tomato juice 2/	43,552	32,590	Jan. 1	29,136	25,593	Jan. 1	2,597	2,717
Total	162,333	145,840		80,449	79,783		14,656	14,756
Minor commodities								
Asparagus	5,422	5,887	Mar. 1	1,673	1,445	Jan. 1	623	591
Beans, lima	3,395	2,518	Feb. 1	2,440	1,881	Jan. 1	528	495
Beets	9,765	8,335	Mar. 1	3,631	5,248	Jan. 1	1,074	993
Blackeye peas	875	1,418						
Carrots	2,855	2,517	Mar. 1	5,089	1,547	Jan. 1	432	421
Okra	327	560						
Pickles	3/21,978	3/25,167						
Pimientos	3/349	3/357						
Pumpkin and squash	5,097	3,306	Dec. 1	2,267	1,693	Jan. 1	682	548
Sauerkraut	3/13,931	3/9,153	Mar. 1	4/5,805	4/5,032	Jan. 1	763	720
Potatoes	2,902	N. A.						
Sweetpotatoes	5,063	N. A.						
Spinach	6,409	6,354	Mar. 1	1,575	1,306	Jan. 1	650	617
Other greens	2,224	2,105						
Tomato products:								
Catsup and								
chili sauce	24,678	18,180	Jan. 1	16,805	15,239	Jan. 1	1,608	1,585
Paste	5/12,487	5/8,741	Jan. 1	6/5,435	6/5,250	Jan. 1	708	642
Pulp and puree	6,158	4,527	Jan. 1	6/2,461	6/2,504	Jan. 1	658	650
Sauce	12,065	7,969	Jan. 1	6/8,497	6/5,981	Jan. 1	562	748
Vegetables, mixed	3,341	3,454						
Total, comparable								
minor items	131,406	110,548		53,701	47,626		8,288	8,011
Grand total								
Comparable items	293,739	256,388		134,150	127,409		22,944	22,767

1/ Converted from actual cases to standard cases of 24 No. 2 cans by S&HR Branch of AMS.

2/ Includes combination vegetable juices containing at least 70 percent tomato juice.

3/ Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an overall conversion factor (pickles 68, sauerkraut 54, and pimientos 29 cases equivalent to 1 ton fresh).

4/ Reported in barrels; converted to 24/2's by using 14 cases to the barrel.

5/ Estimated, basis California pack.

6/ California only.

Canners' stock and pack data from National Canners Association, unless otherwise noted.  
Wholesale distributors' stocks from United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.--Potatoes, winter and spring: Acreage, yield per acre, average 1949-56, 1957 and indicated 1958 <sup>1/</sup>

	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
Seasonal group	Average :	Indi- cated :	Average :	Average :	Indi- cated :	Average :	Average :	Indi- cated :	
	1949-56 :	1957 :	1958 :	1949-56 :	1957 :	1949-56 :	1957 :	1958 :	
	2/	1,000	1,000	2/	1,000	2/	1,000	1,000	
	acres	acres	acres	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	
Winter	24.0	44.0	34.0	156.5	154.3	140.6	3,767	6,790	
Early spring	24.0	31.6	30.8	134.2	139.5	121.7	3,224	4,408	
Late spring	197.3	173.7	181.8	135.4	173.3	---	26,538	30,104	
								---	

<sup>1/</sup> This acreage and production is later included in reports of total potatoes. <sup>2/</sup> Simple averages of annual data for the season.

Table 15.--Sweetpotatoes: Plantings, average 1949-56, annual 1957 and indicated 1958

Area	Acreage			Acreage			Percent		
	Average :	Indi- :	Average :	Indicated :	1958 <sup>1/</sup> :	1958 as percentage of 1957			
	1949-56 :	1957 :	1958 :	1958 <sup>1/</sup> :	1958 <sup>1/</sup> :	of 1957			
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000				
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres				
Central Atlantic <sup>2/</sup>	38.0	38.4	41.4	108					
Lower Atlantic <sup>3/</sup>	108.8	72.0	67.0	93					
South Atlantic <sup>4/</sup>	205.9	164.9	170.0	103					
North Central <sup>5/</sup>	3.8	3.2	3.2	100					
California	11.5	13.0	12.0	92					
United States	370.5	291.5	6/ 293.6	100.7					

<sup>1</sup> Indications as of March 1, 1958. <sup>2/</sup> New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia. <sup>3/</sup> North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. <sup>4/</sup> Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. <sup>5/</sup> Missouri and Kansas. <sup>6/</sup> Assuming 1952-56 average yield by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to 16.2 million hundredweight in 1958, compared with 18.1 million hundredweight in 1957.

Table 16.--Potatoes: Price f.o.b. shipping points and wholesale price per hundredweight at New York and Chicago, indicated periods 1957 and 1958

Item	Week ended						
	1957			1958			
	Feb. 9	Mar. 9	Apr. 6	Jan. 11	Feb. 8	Mar. 8	Apr. 5
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
F.o.b. shipping points:							
New stocks							
Dade County, Fla.,							
U. S. No. 1, Size A,							
Round Red 1/ 2/	3.42	3.10	2.24	---	---	6.04	6.00
Old stock							
San Luis Valley, Colo.,							
Red McClure 1/ 3/ 5/	1.88	1.70	1.40	2.68	2.85	4.28	4.45
Idaho Falls, Idaho							
Russet Burbank 1/ 4/ 5/	2.30	2.21	1.91	2.45	2.45	3.74	4.18
Arrostook County, Me.,							
U. S. No. 1, Size A,							
Katahdin 2/ 6/	1.58	1.56	1.36	2.08	2.12	3.36	3.66
Hartford-Rockville Area, Conn.,							
Katahdin 7/	2.08	2.01	1.86	2.32	2.32	3.52	3.79
Rochester, West and							
Central N. Y. Katahdin 6/ 8/	1.03	.98	.90	1.31	1.42	2.01	2.01
West Michigan, Mich.,							
Katahdin, 2/ 5/	1.96	1.72	---	2.52	2.76	3.96	---
	Tuesday nearest mid-month						
	1957			1958			
	Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Apr. 9	Jan. 14	Feb. 11	Mar. 11	Apr. 8
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Terminal Markets:							
New York:							
New stock:							
Florida, Round Reds 2/	5.00	4.70	4.24	---	6.26	7.76	8.00
Old stock:							
Long Island, Katahdin 2/ 9/	2.60	2.54	2.50	2.78	2.72	4.16	---
Maine, Katahdin 2/ 6/ 9/	2.78	2.72	2.80	3.18	3.22	4.66	5.18
Idaho, Russet Burbank 1/ 2/ 7/ 9/	4.70	4.64	4.40	4.92	4.88	6.40	6.84
Chicago:							
New stock							
Florida, Round Reds 1/ 2/ 9/	4.50	4.80	3.80	---	---	---	---
Old stock							
Idaho, Russet Burbank 1/ 9/	3.80	3.90	3.40	3.85	4.00	5.85	5.80

1/ Washed.

2/ 50 pound price doubled.

3/ 2 1/8 inch minimum.

4/ 20-30 percent, 10 ounce and larger.

5/ Delivery sales shipping point.

6/ 2 1/4-4 inch minimum.

7/ 2 inch minimum.

8/ Various varieties.

9/ U. S. No. 1 Size A.

F.o.b. prices are the simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices and are compiled from Market News Reports of AMS. Market prices are submitted Tuesday of each week by Market News representatives.

Location and variety	Unit	Week ended							
		1957			1958				
		Feb. 9	Mar. 9	Apr. 6	Jan. 11	Feb. 8	Mar. 8	Apr. 5	
F.o.b. shipping points		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
S. W. Louisiana points									
Puerto Rican, U. S.	50 pound:								
No. 1, cured	crate	3.75	3.75	4.08	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.75	
		Tuesday nearest midmonth							
		1957			1958				
		Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Apr. 9	Jan. 14	Feb. 11	Mar. 11	Apr. 8	
Terminal markets									
New York									
New Jersey, orange	Bushel								
Jersey type	basket	3.12	3.00	3.38	3.88	4.00	4.63	4.75	
North Carolina,									
Puerto Rican	do.	4.22	4.18	4.40	4.47	4.98	5.63	5.60	
Chicago									
Louisiana,	50 pound:								
Puerto Rican	crate	4.40	4.40	4.92	5.64	5.60	5.50	5.50	

Table 18.--Average price per hundredweight received by farmers for potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, and dry field peas, United States, indicated periods, 1957 and 1958

Commodity	1957			1958		
	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
	15	15	15	15	15	
	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	
Field crops						
Potatoes 1/	1.44	1.33	1.76	2.12	3.25	
Sweetpotatoes	4.54	4.32	5.16	5.42	5.52	
Beans, dry, edible	6.81	6.77	7.03	7.63	7.64	
Peas, dry, field	3.62	3.51	2.84	2.84	2.87	

1/ Monthly average price.

Table 19.- Peas, dry, field: Prospective plantings for 1958 season, with comparisons <sup>1/</sup>

State	Average 1947-56		Acreage planted		
	Acreage	Yield per	1957	Indicated	1958 as
	planted	planted		1958 <sup>2/</sup>	percentage
	1,000	acre	1,000	1,000	of 1957
	acres	Pounds	acres	acres	Percent
Minnesota	5	878	6	5	83.3
North Dakota	6	807	3	3	100.0
Montana	7	1,055	4	4	100.0
Idaho	102	1,154	106	90	84.9
Wyoming	4	1,293	3	3	100.0
Colorado	19	458	20	15	75.0
Washington	162	1,082	126	113	89.7
Oregon	13	822	11	11	100.0
California	11	1,094	5	5	100.0
Total United States	329	1,052	284	3/ 249	87.7

<sup>1/</sup> In principal commercial producing States.<sup>2/</sup> Indication as of March 1, 1958.<sup>3/</sup> Assuming planted yield per acre, by States, equals the 1952-56 average, production from the prospective acreage would be 2.7 million 100-pound bags (cleaned basis), compared with 3.3 million bags produced in 1957.Table 20.- Beans, dry, edible: Prospective plantings for 1958 season, with comparisons <sup>1/</sup>

Group of States	Average 1947-56		Acreage planted		
	Acreage	Yield per	1957	Indicated	1958 as
	planted	planted		1958 <sup>2/</sup>	percentage
	1,000	acre	1,000	1,000	of 1957
	acres	Pounds	acres	acres	Percent
Maine, New York, Michigan	626	889	647	662	102.3
Nebraska, Montana, Idaho,					
Wyoming, Washington	319	1,506	294	341	116.0
Colorado, New Mexico,					
Arizona, and Utah	376	610	251	257	102.4
California	321	1,343	272	284	104.0
Total United States	1,642	1,034	1,464	3/ 1,544	105.5

<sup>1/</sup> Includes beans grown for seed.<sup>2/</sup> Indications as of March 1, 1958.<sup>3/</sup> Assuming 1952-56 average yields per planted acre, by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to 17.3 million 100-pound bags (cleaned basis), compared with 15.8 million bags produced in 1957.

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